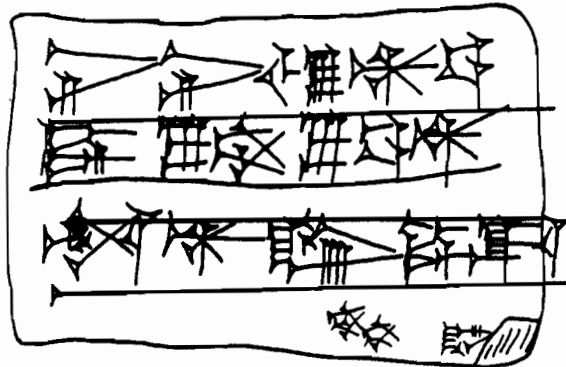


72) **A Draft for an OB Seal Inscription** – The tablet NBC 6257 (60 x 90 x 28 mm), which was purchased from the dealer E.S. David in 1935, is inscribed only on the obverse, with three lines of rather large signs placed parallel to its greatest dimension¹: *l-li-ù-utu² / dumu Lu-ub-lu-ut-dingir / lr³Lugal-bàn-da*. This must be a trial piece for the arrangement of signs in the inscription of a cylinder seal, an interpretation confirmed by the elaborate form of the signs. The only roughly comparable object known to me is published by D. Collon, *Catalogue of the Western Asiatic Seals in the British Museum – Cylinder Seals III, Isin/Larsa and Old Babylonian Periods* (London, 1986), n°656³, a damaged stone tablet on which more than five seal inscriptions have been cut. In that instance, however, the cuneiform signs are made in reverse, so that they might have been easily transferred to seals by an illiterate engraver. Outside of the realm of glyptic, L. W. King, *The Letters and Inscriptions of Hammurabi III* (London, 1910), p. 210 presents an OB Sumerian royal inscription on a tablet which he takes as the model for its execution in stone.



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1. In addition, three signs have been doodled in smaller script at the bottom of the tablet.
2. On this unusual name, see J. J. Stamm, *Namengebung*, paragraph 163 c.
3. Cf. also Collon, *First Impressions* (Chicago, 1987), p. 105.

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